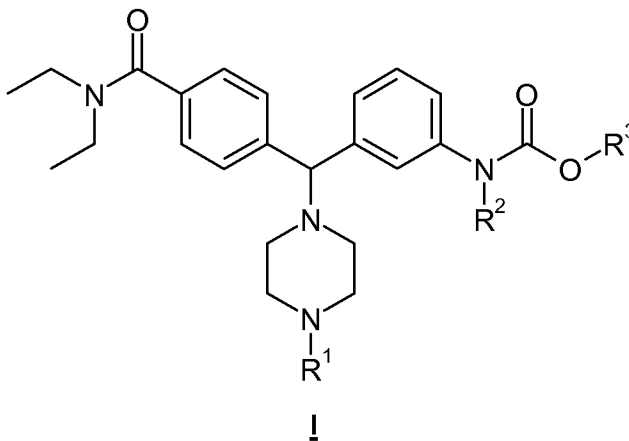


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (original) A compound of formula I, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:



wherein

R^1 is selected from -H, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, wherein said C_{6-10} aryl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^2 is selected from -H, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

R^3 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

Claim 2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is $-\text{CH}_2-\text{R}^4$, wherein R^4 is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl, wherein said phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{CF}_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R^2 is selected from $-\text{H}$ and C_{1-3} alkyl; and

R^3 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl.

Claim 3. (original) A compound according to claim 2,
wherein R^4 is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; pyrrolyl and thiazolyl;
 R^2 is selected from $-\text{H}$ and methyl; and
 R^3 is selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl and isopropyl.

Claim 4. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein
 R^1 is $-\text{H}$;
 R^2 is selected from $-\text{H}$ and C_{1-3} alkyl; and
 R^3 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl.

Claim 5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

Methyl 3-[(4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl)(4-benzyl-piperazin-1-yl)methyl]phenylcarbamate;

Methyl-3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(thien-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(thien-3-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(2-furylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(3-furylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1H-imidazol-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(pyridin-4-yl-methyl) piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

[3-[[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl][4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]phenyl]-carbamic acid methyl ester;

[3-[(S)-[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl][4-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]phenyl]- carbamic acid, methyl ester;

[3-[(S)-[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl][4-(2-thiazolylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]phenyl]- carbamic acid, methyl ester;

Methyl 3-{{(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{(S)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1,3-thiazol-5-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

Methyl 3-{{(S)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(1,3-thiazol-5-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}phenylcarbamate;

[3-[[4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]phenyl]- carbamic acid, methyl ester;

enantiomers thereof; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

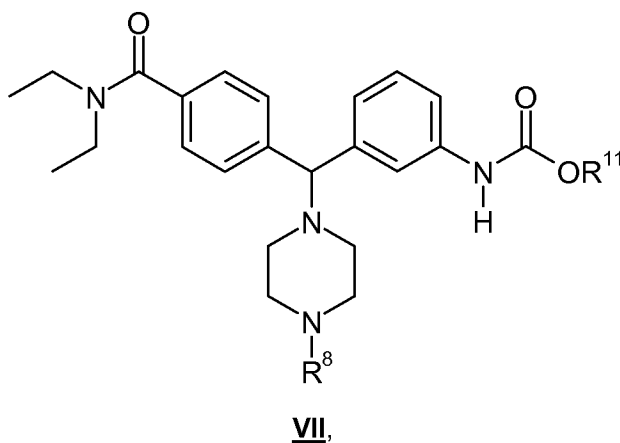
Claims 6-7 (cancelled).

Claim 8. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising: administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

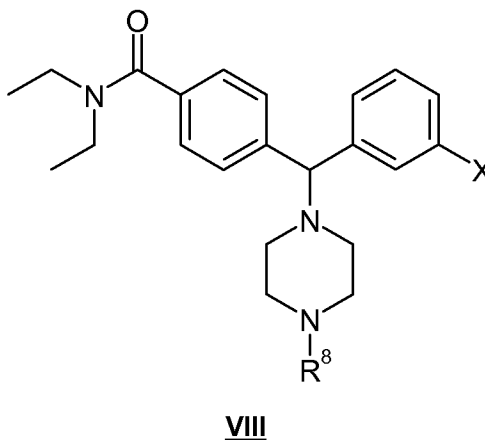
Claims 10-12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula VII:



comprising:

reacting a compound of formula VIII



with a C₁₋₆alkylcarbamate to form the compound of formula VII,

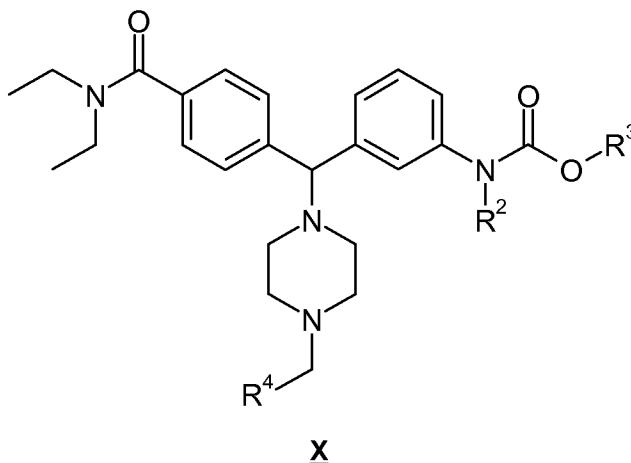
wherein

R^8 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

X is selected from halogen, triflate, and sulfonamide; and

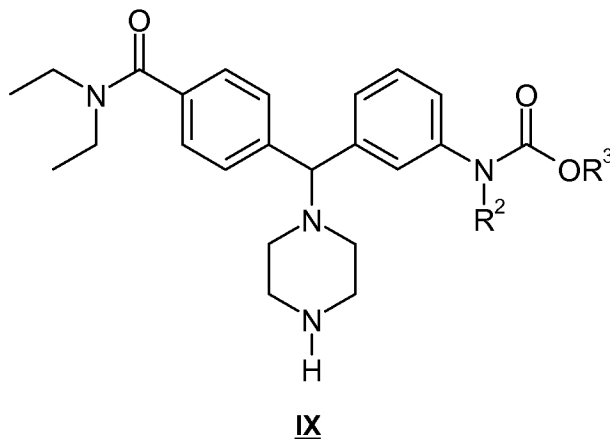
R^{11} is a C_{1-6} alkyl.

Claim 14. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula X,



comprising:

reacting a compound of formula IX,



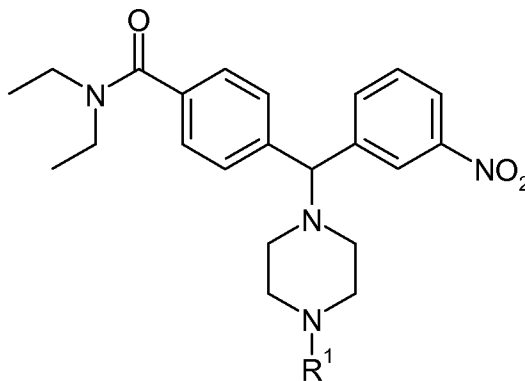
with R^4 -CHO to form the compound of formula X,
wherein

R^4 is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl, wherein said phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R^2 is selected from -H, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, $-C(=O)R$, $-C(=O)OH$, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, $-S(=O)R$, -CN, -OH, $-C(=O)OR$, $-C(=O)NR_2$, $-NRC(=O)R$, and $-NRC(=O)-OR$, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

R^3 is selected from -H, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, $-C(=O)R$, $-C(=O)OH$, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, $-S(=O)R$, -CN, -OH, $-C(=O)OR$, $-C(=O)NR_2$, $-NRC(=O)R$, and $-NRC(=O)-OR$, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

Claim 15. (original) A compound of formula XI, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:



XI

wherein

R^1 is selected from -H, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, wherein said C_{6-10} aryl, C_{2-6} heteroaryl, C_{6-10} aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, and C_{2-6} heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, $-NO_2$, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, $-C(=O)R$, $-C(=O)OH$, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, $-S(=O)R$, -CN, -OH, $-C(=O)OR$, $-C(=O)NR_2$, $-NRC(=O)R$, and $-NRC(=O)-OR$, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.